WTO Study for Development of Tourism

2437. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Tourism Organisation has taken up a study for the development of Tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether the State of Andhra Pradesh is being including in it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The World Tourism Organisation has prepared the Project Support Document for the preparation of a tourism master plan for Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Central Contribution to Development of Tourism Projects

2438. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the present guidelines on extent of Central contribution to the development of tourism projects in the State;

(b) policy changes being worked out, if any, for enhancing the Central contribution to States to boost tourism in the country; and

(c) extent of funds earmarked and actually released on the basis of the existing formula for specific projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) According to the present guidelines, the Ministry of Tourism extends central financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for tourism infrastructure projects such as Yatri Niwases, Tourist Bungalow, Wayside Amenities, Tourist Reception Centres, Adventure Tourism. The State Governments are required to provide land, fittings, furnishings, maintenance and approach road. In the equity scheme the central contribution is 28%.

(b) Depending on the availability of the funds and the cost of materials the central contribution is enhanced while prioritising the projects.

(c) During 1997-98 the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 206.70 lakhs and released Rs. 69.10 lakhs as first instalment for 12 projects to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Rehabilitation Plantation Limited, Punalur (Kerala) and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

I. (a) Twenty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Rehabilitation Plantation Limited, Punalur (Kerala), for the year 1996-97 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 276/98]

II. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Bank.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers